

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02437 111300Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-25 MC-02 OMB-01

DRC-01 IO-14 /114 W

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R 111225Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7337

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEXVASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2437

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET SO

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI OF SUDAN NOV. 11, I RAISED QUESTION PROGRESS OF OAU COMMISSION ON ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE. NIMEIRI CONFIRMED HE HOPES FOR MEETING IN JAN., BUT THAT PROGRESS SLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, QUESTION AROSE OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. I EXPLAINED RELATIONS GOOD, BUT ETHIOPIA CURRENTLY ALARMED OVER SOVIET ARMS BUILD-UP IN SOMALIA AND TURNING TO US FOR GREATER MILITARY ASSISTANCE. UNFORTUNATELY, CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL

SECRET

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02437 111300Z

LIMITATIONS DID NOT PERMIT US EXCEED NORMAL LEVELS, BUT

WE BELIEVED WE COULD PROVIDE THEM DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY
WITHIN THESE LEVELS. COMBINATION THIS ALARM AND OUR
WITHDRAWAL FROM KAGNEW FOR BUDGETARY AND TECHNOLOGICAL
REASONS MADE EMPEROR DOUBT OUR INTENTIONS. I HAD SOUGHT,
IN LATEST VISIT, REASSURE HIM OF OUR INTEREST AND CONTINUING
INTEREST ETHIOPIAN SECURITY.

3. I CONVEYED TO NIMEIRI IMPRESSION OF ETHIOPIAN
SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT STATE SUDAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS.
I ASKED HIS ASSESSMENT, AS CHAIRMAN OAU COMMISSION,
OF POSSIBILITY PROPKESS IN LESSENING ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI TENSIONS.

4. HE REPLIED ETHIOPIAN CONCERN JUSTIFIED SINCE SOMALIS
WANTED ONE-THIRD OF ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. NO AFRICAN
WILL SUPPORT REALIGNMENT COLONIAL BOUNDARIES WHICH CONFIRMED
BY OAU. COMMISSION WOULD WORK ON BASIS EXISTING DOCUMENTS
SUPPORTING FRONTIER BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. THERE WERE
NO DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING SOMALI CLAIM TO OGADAN. HE HAD TOLD
GENERAL SIAD THIS, BUT SIAD HAD REJECTED THIS BASIS FOR
COMMISSION'S WORK. ETHIOPIANS, ON OTHER HAND, REJECTED
SEPARATION OF FORCES. SOMALIS AFRAID ETHIOPIAN
MILITARY INTENTIONS PROBLEM WAS NOT EASY. COMMISSION
HOPED MEET IN JANUARY. BREWER

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NNN

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